A Message from the Principal

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

I hope you all were able to find some quality time with family and friends over the holidays. I am happy to report that I certainly did! I was blessed with the opportunity to spend some wonderful time with those closest to me, and while I enjoyed their company, I was reminded of the immense importance of relationships in our lives.

Relationships often bring us the most pleasure and unfortunately sometimes the most pain. But it’s hard to imagine where we would be without them. When we look at schools, we see the importance of relationships all around us. We see relationships between students & teachers, students & parents, and teachers & parents. And we greatly value them all!

As we move quickly into 2010, we look forward to strengthening our already existing relationships and also to forging new relationships with those joining the Saint Mark ohana. And with our important WASC/HAIS/NLSA accreditation visit scheduled in the near future, we also enthusiastically look forward to welcoming our visiting team members to Saint Mark as we continue to explore new ways to better meet student needs and enhance overall learning.

While none of us knows what the future holds, we do know the importance of relationships - relationships with each other and with our Lord and Savior. For He has “plans to prosper you and …to give you hope…”

Happy 2010!!

Jump Rope for Heart

Saint Mark Lutheran School will be participating again this year in the American Heart Association “Jump Rope for Heart” program.

The Jump-A-Thon will be held on Wednesday, February 17 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by the annual all-school potluck lunch. We are asking that each family provide one small food dish that will feed 4-5 students.

Students must return their jumping waivers and sponsor pledge forms by Wednesday, January 27.
Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: We wrote New Year Resolutions, learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., started a fat new first grade math book, are making a prayer book with over a dozen prayers in it, will learn to jump rope, will culminate our “The Ocean Around Us” study with a trip to the aquarium, will celebrate the 100th day of school on Jan. 25, and will have Wheel Week. And then right around the corner is Chinese New Year and Valentine’s Day. Always a lot happening in our class!

First grade: The first graders got off to an exciting start in 2010. We have learned how to check-out books from the school library, and have taken our first Accelerated Reader quiz. We are also excitedly learning about penguins and what makes them such special creatures. As part of our science curriculum we will compare and contrast penguins to other living animals.

Second Grade: The second graders had a great winter break, but are now ready to work hard during the second semester of school. The students are excited about starting science and learning multiplication facts. The 100th day of school is quickly approaching. We will be decorating a t-shirt that has our collection of a hundred things and doing many fun activities. We are also learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and writing down some of our own dreams that would make the world a better place to live.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third grade: Happy New Year from the third grade. We have just completed our chapter on multiplication in math. We are beginning the chapter on division right now. It is really important that your child become very comfortable with the multiplication facts. It will make the process of learning to divide much easier. We are still wading through Ancient Rome, but I am most surprised by the interest that the children have in learning about Julius Caesar, Hannibal, and Augustus Caesar. I am learning some things right along with them. Many students in the class are finished with their timed tests. They have already earned all the parts of the ice cream sundae we will have at the end of the school year. Please work with your child on the math facts they are working on at this time. We are on the last few stories in our literature book and will be starting some novel studies soon. This will require a bit more reading independently and some packets of work for the study.

Fourth grade: It was so wonderful returning to school and hearing all about my 4th graders’ winter break. They had fun being descriptive about their Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations in their writing. Now that we have started a new year, the students are buzzing with conversation about our annual 4th grade Big Island trip. Even though it is 5 months away, the students can’t stop asking questions about our trip. Thank you again to all the parents that volunteered to chaperone the trip. The 4th graders helped me jump into our Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off. Half the class volunteered to jump rope down the middle aisle of the chapel as a catchy “Heart Hero” song played and entertained the entire school. They were a hit! To add an element of surprise, Miss Arban followed her students down the aisle with jump rope twirling in hand. What a blast! Please help your child raise money for The American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. The students can be a “Heart Hero” and jump for a family member or a friend that suffers from heart disease, diabetes, or other heart conditions. Collection envelopes are due January 27th and our Jump Rope for Heart event/potluck is February 17th. Good luck Heart Heroes.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth grade: Our fifth grade class is getting ready for a five day visit to Starbase-Atlantis at Pearl Harbor. Starbase-Atlantis is an educational experience involving hands-on science and math activities from building rockets to learning Newton’s three laws of motion. Students will observe and participate in various experiments which include flight simulators, creating Space Station modules, and launching rockets that they have built. It’s guaranteed to be a real BLAST!
Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel’s News:
Sixth grade Bible students need to be sure to tune in to SMLS-6 news as they complete their news reports on the Elijah-Baal showdown. Each student will play the part of either anchor-person, reporter, or prophet and will report on the fiery competition between the prophet Elijah and 400+ prophets of Baal.

Sixth grade science students are rockin’ out with their new unit in Earth Science. The students are learning about weathering and erosion of the earth’s surface. Feel free to ask the students how antacid tablets demonstrate the different rates of weathering.

Seventh grade science students are immersing themselves in the parts of the Bible that remind us that we are created by a loving and devoted Father. The students are learning about the theories that exist on this topic, and comparing them to the words of our God.

Eight grade science students are preparing themselves for high school chemistry by learning the foundations of chemistry and chemical equations. If you see an eighth grader with a puzzled look on his/her face, it may be best to back away, because they are probably trying to balance chemical equations.

Pre-algebra and algebra mathematicians are learning the life lesson that math will not come easy the first time around. It takes time and patience to learn new and difficult concepts. However, if you just keep at it with an open mind, you will have that “light-bulb” moment!

Miss Maddick’s News:
In seventh grade Bible we will begin by examining Baptism and how we can compare it to Jonah’s time spent in the ocean. We are also looking at the parables that Jesus used to teach life and faith lessons. In eighth grade we have been examining the power and uses of the word of God and how we can approach Him in prayer.

In language arts we are working with Mrs. Hantel’s science class tackling a research project as well as continuing with our regular studies in language arts. The eighth grade is reading The Bomb and learning about the aftermath of WW2 in the Marshall Islands. Seventh grade is reading The Giver to learn about a world where citizens’ lives are controlled by the leaders of the community. In sixth grade we are writing and learning about poetry.

In sixth grade world history we have finished looking at the end of the Byzantine Empire and the rise of the Muslim world. We will be examining the African nations next. It is important for us to remember that we live in a world that is not unlike what our Savior lived in for his short life on this earth. My grandparents traveled to Israel in November 2009. While looking at their pictures, I realized that many of the beautiful sights could easily have been right here in Hawaii, so I convinced them to share their experience with the junior high.

Mr. Annis’ News:
Sixth grade math has started on ratios & proportions, and just took their test on fractions. Seventh grade social studies finished studying Latin America and are now learning about Europe and Russia. Eighth grade social studies started to learn about the Civil War.

Mr. Johnson’s News:
Last month, the junior high students participated in the Presidential Physical Fitness test. They all were tested on: curl-ups, sit-ups, the shuttle run, the sit & reach, and the mile run. There are two different awards given out to the top students. The National award is given to students who achieved at least the 50th percentile in all five events. The Presidential award is given to students who achieved at least the 85th percentile in all five events. All of the students did a fantastic job and should be proud of their accomplishments! The following students qualified for the National Physical Fitness Award: Kailani Linton (6th), Kael Olowofoye (6th), Tani Buckley (8th), James Chaffin (8th), Kahokulani Keohokapu-Meria (8th), Sarah Rorie (8th), Hana Rupnow (8th), Casey Takahashi (8th), and Zachery Thomas (8th). The following students qualified for the Presidential Physical Fitness Award: Jannah-Jane Cristostomo (8th), Jason Flores (8th), Lanson Kupau Jr. (8th), Duke Quitevis (8th), and Rodney Williams (8th).

Junior High Awards

Principal’s List
(GPA 3.75 - 4.0)
Gaby Alhara
Deidra Iserti-Pama
Kailani Linton
Spencer Oda
Haley Pilien
Sunshine David
Jason Lau
Tani Buckley
Jannah-Jane Cristostomo
Zachery Thomas

Honor Roll
(GPA 3.0 - 3.74)
Kael Olowofoye
Jaron Pagaduan
Craig Shaner
Dominic Sousa
Daeshia Wilson
Tiana Buckley
Deja Lee
Samson Low
Anastasiya Melnyk
Marielle Nakai
Jonathan Pond
Daniel Traylor
Aaron Wilford
James Chaffin
Kaimi Chang
Jason Flores
Heidi Jacobs
Lanson Kupau
Maraea Mussell
Duke Quitevis
Keanu Russell
Noah Schuetz
Casey Takahashi
Korinn Trinies

Citizenship Award
Allisa Cormack-Keohokapu
Deidra Iserti-Pama
Kailani Linton
Haley Pilien
Sunshine David
Pa’ahana Kaha’ulelio
Jason Lau
Deja Lee
Jannah-Jane Cristostomo
Heidi Jacobs

( cont. on page 4)
Awards (cont.)
Leila Latorre
Korinn Trinies

Principal’s Award
Pomai Darlingdon
Desmond Mello
Kalel Olowofoyeku
Tea Veikoso

Athletics
The varsity basketball season has started. Both our boys and girls are off to a good start. They participated in preseason 20/20 tournaments and have been victorious in their first two games. We are looking forward to a great season with Coach Ryan Won for the boys and Coach Kim for the girls. Go Warriors!!!

Prayer Boxes Going Into The Classrooms - Pastor Matt
As the pastor of Saint Mark I want the best for all of our keiki and their families, and I hope to nurture that true sense of ohana within our community. With the new year comes a new addition to each of our classrooms, a prayer box. Each class will design and decorate their own prayer box and we encourage each student and their families to make use of this wonderful gift we have received from the Lord. As Jesus tells us, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14: 13) We have received the assurance that God will hear all of our prayers offered in Jesus name, therefore please take the opportunity to fill out a prayer request card and place it in the prayer box in your child’s classroom. Their teacher will encourage the students to pray for the requests each week by posting them near the prayer box. The congregation of Saint Mark will also include these petitions in our weekly worship services, praying to God in Jesus, name for the needs and joys that have been shared. However, if there are requests that are of a more sensitive nature, we ask that you note that on the prayer request card so that the information would be treated delicately by both the teacher and staff. The congregation of Saint Mark has also organized a Prayer Team who will joyfully pray for each of our students, their families, our faculty and staff. The Saint Mark Prayer Team will also offer to God the requests that are submitted from each classroom. So if you find a note in your child’s take home folder sharing this news, please convey to them that there are loving Christians who are part of the Saint Mark ohana who pray for them, their studies, and their growth as a child of God.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash
Please join us at the next PTC meeting on Monday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m. We value your input as we plan for the Spring Rummage Sale!

The PTC is sponsoring the Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 13 at 9:00 a.m. at SMLS. Please save your stuff and the date!

This & That
Friday, February 12 is Family Night at the Ice Palace! Everyone is welcome to join us for skating, fellowship, and fun. Special discount rate of $7.50 for all skaters. Come and join the St. Mark ohana. Skate from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm or later. A special reservation form will be sent home.

The 2010 May Day Program is rapidly approaching, and help is needed to teach our May Day court the hula. If you are able to assist with dance instruction, please call the school office at 247-5589. Mahalo!

Congratulations to Sunshine David for being the champion of the 2010 National Geography Bee for Saint Mark School. She demonstrated her knowledge and expertise during our final competition that was held at school in December. Congratulations to Sunshine for a job well done!

The Saint Mark Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is sponsoring their Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The PTC plans to use the money to help purchase new computers for the school. Please make plans to support the sale with both donations and purchases.